



Welcome to *Bell, Book and Candle*, our second production in this, our new home. If you want to be involved with us, on or off stage, call us here at the theater (487-3466), or just stop by.

Watch for our upcoming production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde, to be directed by Judith Israel, opening in mid-February. In April, we will present *Play it Again, Sam*. This Woody Allen comedy will be directed by Linda DiBenedetto.

This spring in the Richmond Gallery, the Provincetown Theater Company, in cooperation with the Provincetown Art Association, hopes to mount a retrospective of its twenty years. If you are in possession, and are willing to lend, any PTC memorabilia — posters, costumes, etc. — please contact the company at 487-3466 or the Art Association at 487-1750. Credit and care will be given to any loaned items.



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BELL, BOOK & CANDLE



Provincetown Theater Company Inc.

In the Spring of 1963 the Provincetown Theatre Workshop presented its first production in the Parish House of St. Mary of the Harbor. The group had formed earlier that winter when some twenty local residents were spontaneously drawn together by their mutual interest in drama.

On the program that night was Chekov's "The Anniversary" and an original fantasy, "Circles in the Snow," by Workshop member Connie Black, a combination that presaged much of our future work.

From this quiet but successful beginning the Provincetown Theatre Company has grown.

The next winter we moved to the Art Association, built a stage in the store-room and produced two more original dramas. For the next nine winter seasons the group continued to write, direct and act in its own productions. They also produced a wide selection of plays from theatres all over the world, plus two original memorable revues on the theme "What to do in Provincetown In the Winter?" which brought the entire town to its feet.

In fact, being largely a group of amateurs, with several professional among them, the Workshop approach was the logical bridge to original work of new playwrights, and to classic theatre techniques for actors and directors.

In the Spring of 1972, newcomer Edmond DiStasi joined the Workshop and out of that experience he mounted his own vision of "Marat Sade." New

talent came to light. Exciting productions of "Three-penny Opera", "Promenade", "Alice in Wonderland", "Hot-L Baltimore", "Bus Stop", "Cabaret" and "Chamber Music" followed.

1978-1979 proved to be a creative season for the Provincetown Theatre Company, with world premiere of "Snapshots" by Ralph Fredericks, and "Eva Braun" written and directed by Charles Horne and James Bennet. A quartet of varied productions concluded the season.

In the fall of 1979 many left town to find their fortune in New York and beyond. The Company missed them, and that season saw only one production. But in the last three years a small renaissance has occurred. There's been an influx of new talent and old friends have returned.

During the past two seasons we offered original plays by three Provincetown playwrights as well as an all-community version of "A Christmas Carol", "Enter A Free Man", John Steinbeck's "Of Mice And Men", and the verse-drama "Electra". This season — with a new home and strong foundation of people working in all aspects of drama — the Provincetown Theater Company has come of age.

Theater is a collaborative and social art. We need you to participate. So in this, our 20th anniversary season, work with us, enjoy our plays, support us! We are your theater.

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GROUP TO FORM THEATER WORKSHOP

"There will be a meeting tomorrow, Friday, at 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Provincetown of a newly formed theater group workshop. Everyone on the Lower Cape who is interested in any phase of the theater is invited to become part of the group and is urged to attend the coming meeting, which will complete the setting up of the various workshops. These will include writing, staging, directing, and production as well as the acting and reading sessions.

The production of plays for public performance is part of the aim of the Workshop. It is also for those interested in some of the various activities but do not wish to take part in an actual production.

It is hoped that those who have professional or semi-professional background and training will come forward to aid the group in its various endeavors by advice or participation.

Friday night's meeting will include a script reading of parts of Tennessee Williams' "Period of Adjustment", folksinging by Cliff McGee and Moe Van Derek, and a discussion of the lines along which the group will be organized.

— The Provincetown Advocate
December 6, 1962

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

RON WEISSEBERGER (Director) In town since 1971, Ron has established his reputation as the Company's resident character actor in such diversified roles as Sheemish in *Bluebeard*, Mr. Morse in *Hot'l Baltimore*, Joseph Goebbels in *Eva Braun*, Nag in *Endgame*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Crooks in last season's *Of Mice and Men*, and as Pablo in our recent production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, as well as eight other acting credits with the Provincetown Theatre Company. Ron has previously directed PTC productions of *Bus Stop* and *Happy Birthday, Wanda June*. He has also appeared in productions of the Children's Repertory Theater of Cape Cod, and following the run of *Bell, Book and Candle*, Ron plans to independently produce and direct his own original play, *Staying Together*, in April at Capt. John's.

SANDRA BUSA (Gillian) Making her acting debut with the Provincetown Theater Company, Sandy studied theater at the University of Minnesota. Primarily focusing on dance, she has also worked with children in theater and puppetry. Last year Sandy performed in *Alice The Magnificent* with the Children's Repertory Theater of Cape Cod as well as doing the make-up for PTC's *Horizon Lines*.

GLEN LANE (Shep) Glen was an acting apprentice with Stage/West, a regional theater in Springfield, appearing in *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hamlet*, and *Count Dracula*. He was also featured in various children's plays. He studied acting, voice and dance at The Cape Playhouse School of Theatre and was a member of their touring company. Joining the Provincetown Theater Company in 1981, Glen appeared in *Beyond the Revolt of Mamie Stover* and portrayed Slim in *Of Mice and Men*.

MARY BOYLE (Aunt Queenie) Making her first appearance as an actress on any stage, Mary is primarily a visual artist whose work is very visible in Provincetown as she has generously lent her talents to many arts organizations for poster and lay-out work. Mary designed the *Bell, Book and Candle* poster, and contributed to the set decoration. Mary is also one of the participating artists whose work is exhibited on the set.

MICHAEL GREEN (Nicky) Michael arrived in Provincetown last July from Indianapolis where he appeared in the children's television show *Time for Timothy* as Ezra the Raccoon. He also performed in various Indianapolis cabarets and night clubs.

FRANCESCA BRENNER (Cynthia Redlitch) Before her recent graduation from Bennington College, Francesca performed in the first American staged reading of *Cinders* by Polish playwright Janusz Glowacki. She also appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Comings and Goings* and *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*. Cesca has also worked with the Iowa Theatre Lab and the Experimental Theatre wing at NYU. After assisting with PTC's *Electra* last season, she now makes her debut on our stage.

MEHITABEL MORRA (Pyewacket) A Provincetown resident since 1976, Belle is making her stage debut. Previous acting credits include many films and commercials produced by the students at Syracuse University, where Belle resided before making her permanent home here.

LARRY RILEY (Stage Manager) Mr. Riley's list of credits includes work in such theaters as Long Wharf Theater in New Haven, The Goodspeed Opera House and The Hartford Stage Company. He has worked in areas ranging from make-up design to stage managing, to acting and directing. With the Provincetown Theater Company he has played Polonius in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland*, Mr. Stanley in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Mother Superior in *Lady Godiva* and the title role in *Bluebeard*. Mr. Riley directed *Hot'l Baltimore* and designed the make-up for *Peter Pan*, *Marat Sade*, and *A Thousand Clowns*, among others. His most recent appearance was as the Prowler in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He will be seen as Dr. Chasuble in our upcoming production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



BELL, BOOK & CANDLE

8:00 pm

DECEMBER 16 – 21

DECEMBER 30 – JAN. 2

DECEMBER 31st – Special New Year's Eve Performance 7:00

written by John Van Druten
directed by ron weissenberger

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Provincetown MA
12-17-82

CHRISTMAS WITCHES



By Elliott Edwards

Christmas witches? Exactly right! *Bell, Book, and Candle*, the Provincetown Theater Company's Christmas play, features three witches, or, strictly speaking, two witches and one warlock, as well as a bemused suitor who is more enchanted by the relationship than he cares to admit.

Gillian Holroyd, (Sandy Fusa), has a problem. A beautiful young witch at the top of her game, she desires Shep Henderson (Glen Lane), who is not the sort to consort with anyone he isn't set to marry. Gillian's brother Nicky (Michael Green) is a cynical gay warlock whose role is in many ways the play's best. Add a slightly dotty Aunty witch (Mary Boyle) and a thoroughly potted writer witch-groupie (Cheska Brenner) and you've mixed an unstable brew indeed.

It is just this instability that the play hinges on. Although our copy deadlines precluded a full viewing, the scenes and snippets I was able to see make me confident that the Company's Christmas offering will be a counterpoint to its *Streetcar* success. This one is sheer entertainment; life-and-death issues do not intrude. "Will witch get boy?" is more the theme, which is as it should be. As we roll our pennies and watch the winter set down rather abruptly, we need to feel the

playfulness that the season too often squelches.

As Christmas is the season of giving, the Theater Company has arranged to open its doors on the Monday and Tuesday before Christmas at a 2-for-1 price for teens and senior citizens. Children are free with adults.

In addition, the play showcases the work of a number of talented local artists. Production manager Paul Asher notes that almost a dozen artists will be represented on the set. Near the apartment door is an oil of a woman done by Michael Rogovsky which, in the play, becomes the portrait of a dancer at The Zodiac, a witch's bar frequented by Nicky. By the fireplace hangs a ritual mask fashioned by Peter Macara, a souvenir of Gillian's recent trip to Mexico. There are watercolors by Abby Marchesani of daisies, carnations, roses, and mums, as well as a photo silkscreen by Kristine Hopkins called "The Iron Bridge, Exeter, England. Also shown are a recent oil by Gail Browne, and work on paper in both pencil and charcoal by Mary Boyle, who also collaborated on set design.

The Theater Company is forging a place for itself with its community awareness, its generosity, and above all its talent. To watch these people work is exciting; to know them as townspeople and friends is better still.

Christmas play opens next week with cat actress, artworks featured

In an effort to lure more segments of Provincetown's year-round population into the theater, the Provincetown Theater Company will have two-for-one nights on December 20 and 21 for its Christmas production, John Van Druten's "Bell, Book and Candle."

In the past the theater company has limited its performances to weekends only. But during the week before Christmas, "Bell, Book and Candle" will run from its debut night December 16 through December 21. The cast will take a break for Christmas and performances will resume December 30.

Paul Asher, production manager, said that on Monday and Tuesday nights of that pre-Christmas week, children, teenagers and senior citizens will be able to see the play for reduced prices.

"Any child accompanied by an adult will be able to get in for free," Asher said. "A teenaged couple can buy tickets at our two-for-one special rate, and so can senior citizens." The special rates will be available only for those two nights, Asher said.

The rationale behind the decision to cut prices was both community spirited and practical. "We're always saying we want to encourage these groups to come to our plays, but we've never really given them a reason," Asher said. He hopes a taste of the theater company's fare might convince playgoers to come back for more. "And, after all, it is Christmas."

Opening night will be special, too. For a slightly higher-than-normal admission price of \$6, ticket holders will be treated to the first night performance plus a special buffet at The Sea Fox Inn afterwards. The proceeds of this night will benefit the theater company's building fund.

Another special feature of "Bell, Book and Candle" is the mixed-media presentation included in its set.

Asher explained that he needed a Mexican mask as a prop for Gillian, a young witch who is the leading character, to accidentally break. He asked a local ar-

tist, Peter Macara, to create both a broken and unbroken mask to use in the play.

"That gave us the idea to use other local artworks to decorate the set," Asher said. A committee comprised of Larry Riley, stage manager, director Ron Weissenberger and John Russell, theater company member, set out to choose local artworks from people who have supported the company in the past.

Watercolors by Abbi Marchesani; a photo silkscreen by Khristine Hopkins; an oil painting by Gail Browne; and a drawing by Mary Boyle add special touches to the set, which is supposed to be Gillian's Manhattan brownstone.

Other works include paintings by Kirk DeFontes, Bonnie Fuoco, Florence Rich and photographs by Russell.

"They dress the set nicely, but they also contribute a sense of the art community that is so apparent in the rest of the art association," Asher said. The company's theater is in the Provincetown Art Association's Murchison Gallery.

One last feature of the Christmas play is the debut performance of a six-year-old actress, who, according to Asher, has had prior experience in plays and commercials.

"It's my cat, Mehitabel," Asher explained. Mehitabel plays Pyewacket, the cat Gillian uses as an intermediary to the spirit world.

Mehitabel, or "Bel," as she is familiarly known, was previously owned by a college student, Asher said, who used the cat in student productions and commercials.

"She's black and beautiful," Asher said proudly. Asked if Bel suffers from stage fright, he said, "No, she's fine. She's going to be held during most of her time on stage, and then we'll just put her out the back door," where, of course, there will be a crewmember ready to retrieve her.



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